

**NEVADA ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO  
THE U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS  
MEETING MINUTES**

April 20, 2017

The Nevada Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Committee) convened a conference call to discuss assertions and themes from the hearing in preparation for a memorandum issued to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission). Wendell Blaylock chaired the meeting and performed the initial roll call of committee members present. The meeting was open to the public and took place from 1:05 PDT.

**State Advisory Committee Members:**

**Present:**

- Sondra Cosgrove
- Ed Williams
- Wendell Blaylock
- David Fott
- Debra Feemster
- Kara Jenkins

**Absent:**

- Emma Guzman
- Bob Beers
- Kathleen Bergquist
- Matthew Saltzman
- Jon Ponder
- Kay Kindred
- Theresa Navarro
- Carol Del Carlo

**Commission Staff present:**

- Ana Victoria Fortes, Designated Federal Officer (DFO)
- David Mussatt
- Angelica Trevino

**Members of the Public present:**

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**Meeting Notes/Decisions Made:**

**I. Welcome and Roll Call**

- Chair did a roll call

**II. Approval of March 29, 2017 Minutes**

- Ed Williams motioned to approve minutes and changes to transcript for Jessica Feierman's testimony.
- Sondra Cosgrove seconds motion.

### III. Discussion on Themes and Assertions from Hearing on Municipal Fines and Fees

- Chair brought attention to the Commission's quarterly newsletter to notify the Committee of their excellent work on the March 15 hearing and that a panelist had recognized the Committee during the Commission hearing on March 17.
- Ed Williams noted that it would be great to raise more visibility of the Committee's work by sharing photos of the hearing and the work of the Committee ahead.
- Chair asked for ideas on assertions and themes to include on the memo to the Commission.
  - Sondra Cosgrove noted that the memo ought to provide guidance on next steps for local advocates.
    - Ed Williams agrees with this point and added that the memo should provide recommendations to specific organizations and government agencies.
  - Chair is interested in including a special emphasis on juveniles of color as those who are disparately impacted by municipal fines and fees.
    - Debra Feemster agrees as she is interested in raising these concerns with the juvenile justice system.
  - Ed Williams is interested in seeing an emphasis on data collection, data tracking, and transparency.
  - David Fott echoed that transparency is an important theme and made a recommendation that courts should report their funding sources.
- Chair requested to include in the background portion of the memo information from the Department of Justice (DOJ) letters, on [seven constitutional principles relevant to the enforcement of fines and fees](#) and an [advisory letter for recipients of financial assistance on levying fines and fees on juveniles](#).
- DFO reviewed the outline with the Committee to solicit feedback on organization and other ideas to include.

#### Feedback on Data Collection and Tracking Section

- Ed Williams requested that the points on the lack of data noted under the "Due Process" section should be moved up to the "Data Collection and Tracking" section.
- Ed Williams requested that there be more background information as to why the Nevada Judicial Branch produced a report illustrating its funding sources in 2003 and not in the years after or before.

#### Feedback on Due Process Section

- Chair asked that the definition of a Gilbert hearing be included and cited.
- Kara Jenkins would like to see more on performing community service and its adverse impact. The emphasis should focus on how it poses a challenge for mothers and fathers with caretaking responsibilities

because it would require finding and/or paying for childcare, which is an added financial burden.

- Chair asked the Committee to develop recommendations and send to DFO by May 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Notes on developing recommendations for memo.
  - Recommendations can be as specific or general as possible. The intention is to lift up the state-specific civil rights issues to the Commission and determine the various courses of action.
  - All Committee members are in agreement about addressing recommendations to specific state and federal actors.
  - Debra Feemster encourages to add more citations that agree with findings.
  - Committee members will put together recommendations and will discuss then at the next meeting.

#### **IV. Public Comment**

- No members of the public were present.

#### **V. Next Steps**

- Next Committee meeting is May 11, 2017 at 1:00 pm.
- Committee will submit recommendations in to DFO by May 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- DFO will send out minutes from meeting, a draft of recommendations, and a Doodle poll to identify the fourth post-hearing meeting.

#### **VI. Adjournment at 2:21 pm**

- Ed Williams motioned to adjourn the meeting.
- Debra Feemster seconds the motion.